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PATENT APPLICATION

1-24-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Glaucia PARANHOS-BACCALA, Francois MALLET,
Cecile VOISSET

Application No.: US National Stage of PCT/FR00/00144

Filed: July 9, 2001

Docket No.: 110048

For: ENDOGENEOUS NUCLEIC ACID FRAGMENT ASSOCIATED WITH AN
AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE, LABELING METHOD AND REAGENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 7, 11, 16 and 17 as follows:

A1 7. (Amended) Transcription product which can be obtained by transcription of at
least said portion of the *gag* gene of a fragment according to claim 1.

A2 11. (Amended) Method according to claim 8, characterized in that the biological
sample is a biological fluid chosen from serum, plasma, synovial fluid and urine.

A3 16. (Amended) Reagent for detecting, in a biological sample, an autoimmune
disease or monitoring pregnancy, comprising at least one fragment according to claim 1.

17. (Amended) Use of a fragment according to claim 1, for detecting, in a
biological sample, susceptibility to an autoimmune disease, or monitoring pregnancy.